

JOINT ADVOCACY COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS

Representing Traditional Elders, Members of Parliament, Youth, and Women Groups of Galjecel
Community

Jubaland State of Somalia

**URGENT APPEAL FOR INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION, ACCOUNTABILITY,
AND JUSTICE REGARDING THE CIVILIAN CASUALTIES IN KAMJAROON,
Jubaland State of Somalia**

TO:

**-The Ministry of Defense Federal
Government of Somalia**

-The Office of the President

Jubaland State of Somalia

-The Chief of Defense Forces (CDF)

Somali National Armed Forces

CC:

**-The National Independent Human Rights
Commission of Somalia**

-Committee on Human Rights, Women &

Humanitarian Affairs, Somali Parliament

**-United States Africa Command (AFRICOM) –
Somalia**

**-African Union Support & Stabilization Mission
in Somalia (AUSSOM)**

**-UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human
Rights (OHCHR)**

-United States Embassy, Mogadishu

-UK Embassy in Somalia

DATE: 21 May 2026

Dear Sir/Madam,

We, the undersigned representatives of the traditional elders, Members of Parliament, youth groups, and women's representatives of the Galjecel community living in Jubland state of Somalia, submit this formal appeal to urgently report and demand immediate redress for a catastrophic military operation that has resulted in egregious human rights violations, including the arbitrary deprivation of civilian lives, unlawful detentions, and the destruction of local livelihoods.

This appeal details the events of Wednesday, 20 May 2026, which occurred in the Dhiigta Margoos settlement (located between Banaaneey and Kamjaroon, approximately 60 kilometers west of Kismayo). We present this appeal in alignment with national and international legal obligations binding

upon the Federal Government of Somalia, its regional member states, and international security partners.

Factual Chronology of the Incident

1. **The Attack (20 May 2026):** At approximately 3:00 am, armed forces traveling in Toyota pickup vehicles (locally designated as “Abdi Bile”) launched an offensive operation within the Dhiigta Margoos civilian settlement.
2. **Civilian Fatalities:** The operation resulted in the immediate, violent deaths of eight (8) members of a single extended family. The deceased include Ahmed Salad Hassan (the patriarch), his pregnant wife Bishaaro Ibrahim Osman (and her unborn child), three of their children aged between 5 and 17, a relative, and a 95-year-old grandmother.
3. **Abduction and Detention at Kismayo Airport:** Following the initial assault, security forces took custody of four individuals: a severely wounded teenager (Mohamed Ahmed Salad, 19), his brother, grandmother, and a close relative. These individuals were transported to the military installation located inside the Kismayo Airport perimeter.
4. **Custodial Deaths and Denial of Body Repatriation (21 May 2026):** On the morning of 21 May 2026, it was confirmed that all the detained individuals, except for the critically injured teenager, had died while in the custody of the forces. When traditional elders and family representatives formally requested the release of the bodies from the Kismayo Airport base to perform mandatory Islamic burial rites, the Special Unit forces/Danab reportedly refused to repatriate the remains.
5. **Abandonment of Vulnerable Minors:** The execution of the parents, grandfather, and eldest siblings left five (5) minor children under the age of ten completely unaccompanied, without food, shelter, or guardians in a high-risk conflict area.
6. **Destruction of Livelihood Assets:** During the operation, security forces executed or destroyed key livelihood assets vital to the family’s survival, including approximately 40 goats, 20 cows, and 2 donkeys, completely decimating the surviving children’s economic future.

Alignment with National and International Human Rights Frameworks

The tragic actions carried out in Kamjaroon constitute severe breaches of both domestic legislation and international covenants to which the Federal Government of Somalia is a State Party:

Breaches of National Law (Provisional Constitution of Somalia)

- **Article 15 (Right to Life):** Explicitly guarantees that every person has the right to life, and that no one may be deprived of life arbitrarily. The summaries and extrajudicial killings of non-combatants constitute a fundamental violation of this constitutional protection.
- **Article 10 (Human Dignity):** Asserts that human dignity is inviolable. The refusal to release the bodies of the deceased for proper religious burial violates this core dignity.
- **Article 26 (Right to Property):** Protects citizens against the arbitrary seizure or destruction of private property and livelihoods (e.g., livestock).

Breaches of International Humanitarian Law (IHL)

As the operations were directed against suspected insurgent targets, security forces are bound by IHL, specifically Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Customary IHL, which mandate:

- **The Principle of Distinction:** Forces must at all times distinguish between combatants and civilians. Target selection in this operation failed this absolute threshold.
- **Prohibition of Collective Punishment and Violence to Life:** Explicitly prohibits murder, mutilation, cruel treatment, and torture of persons taking no active part in hostilities.
- **Protection of Vulnerable Demographics:** Under IHL, special protections are afforded to pregnant women, children, and the elderly. The killing of a pregnant mother and a 95-year-old grandmother represents an egregious violation of these civilians.
- **Breaches of International Human Rights Law (IHRL)**
- The State's failure to prevent these killings and its subsequent custodial actions violate:
- **The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) – Article 6:** Protects the inherent right to life.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) & the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child: Failure to protect the five abandoned minors from extreme trauma, physical endangerment, and abandonment.

Civilian Casualty and Affected Persons Register

The following tables document the official list of casualties and survivors from the affected family in the Kamjaroon tragedy.

Table 1: Record of Deceased and Injured Casualties

No.	Full Name	Age	Relationship	Status / Condition
1	Ahmed Salad Hassan	45	Father / Head of Household	Deceased
2	Bishaaro Ibrahim Osman	39	Mother (Pregnant)	Deceased (with unborn child)
3	Jecela Ahmed Salad	14	Daughter	Deceased
4	Hamdi Ahmed Salad	12	Daughter	Deceased
5	Osman Ahmed Salad	15	Son	Deceased
6	Mohamed Ahmed Salad	17	Eldest Son	Severely Wounded / Custodial Detention
7	Habibo Osman Mahamud	95	Grandmother	Deceased
8	Cabdow Osman Omar	36	Relative	Deceased

Table 2: Record of Surviving Minor Children Left Abandoned

No.	Full Name	Age	Current Urgent Status & Immediate Needs
1	Fican Ahmed Salad	10	Orphaned minor; requires emergency shelter & psycho-social support.
2	Ladan Ahmed Salad	6	Orphaned minor; requires emergency shelter & psycho-social support.
3	Fatuma Ahmed Salad	5	Orphaned minor; requires pediatric care & family placement.
4	Aden Ahmed Salad	3	Orphaned minor; requires pediatric care & family placement.
5	Abdirahim Ahmed Salad	1	Infant; requires critical nutritional, pediatric & humanitarian care.

Formal Demands and Core Recommendations

To address these severe infractions, restore community trust, and prevent further escalations, the representatives of the Galjecel community living put forward the following urgent demands to the Federal Government of Somalia, Jubaland State authorities, and international partners:

1. **Immediate Release of Deceased Remains:** We demand that Danab forces operating at the Kismayo Airport base immediately and unconditionally hand over the bodies of the deceased to traditional elders for a dignified, Islamic burial.
2. **Establishment of a Joint Independent Commission of Inquiry:** We request the immediate creation of an independent investigation body led by the National Independent Human Rights Commission of Somalia, with oversight from the United Nations (OHCHR) and AUS- SOM. This inquiry must investigate the chain of command, operational parameters, and identify the actors (national and international partners, including AFRICOM) responsible for this tragedy.
3. **Medical Repatriation and Care:** The wounded survivor, Mohamed Ahmed Salad (17), must be granted immediate access to independent medical professionals, and his arbitrary detention must be terminated.
4. **Prosecution of Perpetrators:** All military personnel, commanders, and operational planners found to have violated rules of engagement, domestic law, or IHL must be suspended and prosecuted in transparent, public proceedings under civilian courts.
5. **Emergency Humanitarian Intervention and Restitution:**
 - Provide immediate, comprehensive child welfare support, security, and healthcare to the five (5) orphaned children under the age of ten.
 - Pay full blood money (Diyya) and provide complete restitution for the destroyed household assets and livestock (40 goats, 20 cows, and 2 donkeys) to guarantee the

long-term survival of the orphaned minors.

Conclusion and Signatures

The Galjecel community has historically stood as a beacon of peace, resisting extremist elements and cooperating with state-building efforts. However, continuing indiscriminate security operations that treat civilians as collateral damage risk alienating communities and undermining national security. We remain committed to seeking justice through peaceful, legal, and constitutional avenues, but we demand that the government and international partners act with equivalent respect for the law.

We look forward to your urgent reply and prompt action on this gravity-laden matter.

On behalf of the Galjecel Community Representatives:

1. Suldan Abdi Arab	Galjecel Chief elder, Jubaland
2. Abdinur Ali Aden	FGS Member of Parliament
3. Dahir Amin Jesow	FGS Member of Parliament
4. Ali Haji Aden	FGS Member of Parliament
5. Zamzam Abdullahi Ahmed	FGS Member of Parliament
6. Mohamed Aden Anoy	FGS Member of Parliament
7. Abdullahi Aden Shair	Former FGS Member of Parliament
8. Abdirashid Ali	State Member of Parliament, Jubaland
9. Mohamed Ibrahim	State Member of Parliament, Hirshabelle
10. Abdi Balley	State Member of Parliament, Jubaland
11. Kadijo Ahmed Ibrahim	State Member of Parliament, Jubaland
12. Osman Haji Mohamed	Elder
13. Farah Isak	Elder
14. Ibrahim Ali	Elder
15. Hassan Ali Nur	Elder
16. Mohamud Ali Husein	Youth Rep
17. Kadijo Hussein	Women Rep

